

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Uranium Ore Mining near Georgenthal (K 30)

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- Beginning in the fall of 1948, persistent rumors were spread, first in the Georgenthal (K30) region, then in other parts of Germany, that the Russians had found a particularly rich uranium ore deposit at the Filzteich (K43) near Georgenthal. The rumors also said that working in the Filzteich deposit was very dangerous for the life and health of the miners. The Western German press subsequently reported a big catastrophe there during which allegedly 190 miners were drowned.
 - The following account was given by a refugee from Filzteich who stated that he had worked there for a short time prior [redacted]. It is actually true that rich veins of pitchblende were found immediately underneath the Filzteich, a large pond in the region of Georgenthal. The dimensions of one among several of these pitchblende veins are reportedly as follows: length, 85 meters; average height, 0.85 meters; average width, 2.70 meters.
 - Since the ore deposits are located almost immediately underneath the bottom of the Filzteich and since the ore is particularly rich in uranium (the exact proportion is unknown) the digging is very hazardous. A miner working underneath the pond receives a wage of 250 Mark* per day and a daily supplement of 150 Mark* for hazardous work. After spending two hours digging underneath the pond, he will be withdrawn for four hours before he is sent to resume digging.
- Only four lead-padded protective suits were available for the entire Filzteich project. These were at the exclusive disposition of Russians who went into the mine. For a time, the workers had to wear aluminum helmets for their protection. These proved to be absolutely inefficient. When, as a consequence of heat reflection** on the workers by the helmets, increasing numbers of workers fainted, the rule obliging them to wear the helmets was abolished.

* sic: these figures appear to be much too high.

**sic: probably radiation phenomena.

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